

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 11-16, 18, 20 and 38 are pending in the present application, with Claim 11 being the sole independent claim. Claim 11 is amended herein to clarify that the ink dots are printed on the ink-receiving layer. Claim 38 is added herein; support may be found in the specification at least at page 5, lines 9-13. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by the amendments herein.

Claims 1-16, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Cahill, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,766,398). Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection.

Before addressing the merits of the rejection, Applicants believe it will be useful to review some features and advantages of the claimed invention. As recited in independent Claim 11, the present invention relates to a printed matter printed with ink dots on an ink-receiving layer of a recording medium. The recording medium comprises a transparent, ink-intercepting base material that has a first face and a second face, a metal layer formed on the first face of the base material, and an ink-receiving layer provided on the second face of the base material. The first face of the transparent base material on the metal layer side is embossed. At least one of solid printed areas of yellow, magenta, and cyan colors has maximum specular glossiness within a measurement angle range of from 20° to 60°.

The claimed invention is shown in Fig. A attached hereto: a printed matter printed with ink dots on an ink-receiving layer of a recording medium comprising an ink-receiving layer, a transparent, ink-intercepting base material and a metal layer. Since the ink-

intercepting base material on the metal layer side is embossed, an image that is brightened like a rainbow can be formed by interference of the light with the substrate. Moreover, since a transparent, ink-intercepting base material is formed between the metal layer and the ink-receiving layer, moisture and dyes contained in ink in the ink-receiving layer do not react with the metal layer. Thus, the metallic luster can be maintained for a long time. In Applicants' view, the cited reference does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

In Cahill, et al., an image is formed by ink-jet imaging on the ink-receptive layer (16) formed on the protective layer (14), which is on the temporary carrier layer (12), to obtain the ink imaged layer (18). (See Figure 2 attached hereto.) The temporary carrier layer (12) may be a web or sheet material. (Column 4, line 59.)

In the Cahill, et al. reference, the finally recorded material is obtained not just by forming an image by ink-jet recording, but also by executing the following further two steps:

Step 2:

The adhesive substrate (20) with the substrate (22) and adhesive layer (24) (shown in Figure 2) is connected with the ink-receiving layer of a recording medium on which an image is formed (Figure 3a).

Step 3:

The temporary carrier layer (12) is peeled from the recording medium in which an image is formed (Figure 3b).

Accordingly, the complex Cahill, et al. process requires the various above-noted steps to obtain the finally recorded material. Applicants conclude that the present invention is not obvious over this reference.

Moreover, in Cahill, et al., when observed from the top surface in the figures, the image is formed under the ink-receiving layer. Therefore, the image is observed through the protective layer (14). In Applicants' view, this feature, too, distinguishes the cited reference from the claimed invention.


In view of the above, Applicants conclude that Cahill et al. does not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in Claim 11, and respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection.

Applicants submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 11. The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given regarding independent Claim 11, as well as for the patentable features therein. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Figs A, 2, 3a and 3b

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